

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, August 21, 1984

GEORGE N. GRAY
CHAIRMAN

Lafayette, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

August 21, 1984

AGENDA

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| 1. | Roll Call | 1 |
| 2. | Ratification of Land Purchase, Ouachita Tract and Tensas Tract | 1 |
| 3. | Setting of Waterfowl Season Dates | 4 |

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

August 21, 1984

Chairman George N. Gray, presiding:

Members present:

Dr. Jack Cappel
Mr. Lyle Crain
Mr. Dale Vinet

Secretary J. Burton Angelle was present.

The special meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set the waterfowl season was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. George Gray, on Tuesday, August 21, 1984 at 7:00 PM at the Holiday Inn North in Lafayette.

Joe Herring presented a resolution to ratify the land purchase of August 15, 1984. A motion was made by Mr. Vinet, seconded by Dr. Cappel, and passed unanimously to approve this ratification.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries formally purchased two tracts of land totaling over 10,500 acres to be added to the State's Wildlife Management Area system. One tract consists of 4,887.83 acres of bottomland hardwoods in Tensas, Madison and Franklin Parishes and 5,621 acres mostly of agriculture land in Ouachita Parish.

The Tensas Tract adjoins the State's existing Big Lake Wildlife Management Area purchased last year and brings the total of state owned land in that rapidly vanishing forest to about 15,000 acres. An option was taken on this acreage when the initial purchase was made and the \$4,765,439.25 purchase price secured at that time. This land is prime forest type game habitat.

The Ouachita Parish tract is mostly agriculture land that lies between and adjoins Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area on the north and Ouachita Wildlife Management Area on the south. This 5,621 acres will connect the two existing wildlife management areas and form a 25,966 acre contiguous tract that can be managed as a unit for wildlife. The purchase price for this acreage is \$6,673,200.

Present plans for this area is to reforest portions, establish a large public dove hunting area (fields), establish a permanent waterfowl banding site for research, nature trail, camping site off Highway 15, work on non-game species and encourage the colleges and universities in the area to conduct research on the newly acquired land as well as that we previously owned. This area has an immeasurable potential for forest game, migratory species, some farm game, non-game and fishing.

These are two excellent additions to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Management Area system and Mr. Herring recommended that these purchases be ratified by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission.

(The full text of the resolution
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, on August 15, 1984, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries formally purchased two tracts of land totaling over 10,500 acres to be added to the State's Wildlife Management Area system, and

WHEREAS, one tract consists of 4,887.83 acres of bottomland hardwoods in Madison, Tensas and Franklin Parishes which adjoins the state's existing Big Lake Wildlife Management Area purchased last year and brings the total of state owned land in that rapidly vanishing forest to almost 15,000 acres, and

WHEREAS, the tract of land is prime forest type game habitat and will provide much needed additional hunting and recreational lands at a cost of \$4,765,439.25, and

WHEREAS, the second tract of land is in Ouachita Parish, mostly agriculture consisting of 5,621 acres at a cost of \$6,673,200 and lies between and adjoins Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area on the north and Ouachita Wildlife Management Area on the south, and

WHEREAS, this 5,621 acres will connect the two existing wildlife management areas and form a 25,966 acre contiguous tract that can be managed as a unit for wildlife, and

WHEREAS, present plans for this area is to reforest portions, establish a large public dove hunting area (fields), establish a permanent waterfowl banding site for research, nature trail, camping site off Highway 15, work on non-game species and encourage the colleges and universities in the area to conduct research on the newly acquired land as well as that we previously owned, and

WHEREAS, this area has an immeasurable potential for forest game, migratory species, some farm game, non-game species and fishing, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on this date, August 21, 1984, ratify the purchase of the Tensas and Ouachita tracts, a total of approximately 10,500 acres at a cost of \$11,438,639.25 for additions to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries existing public Wildlife Management Area system and that these lands be developed for hunting, fishing and other outdoor related recreation for the public.

Mr. Gray recognized Mr. Carl Jones from Shreveport who is the State President for Ducks Unlimited, Mr. Charlie Riggs and Mr. Marc Dupuy, past Commission members and Mr. John D. Newsom and Mr. Richard Yancey, past Assistant Secretaries of the Department.

Mr. Larry Soileau gave a report on Louisiana's standing in the Central Flyway project along with reports of other meetings attended by he and Mr. Chuck Smith. Mr. Soileau then presented to the Commission in graph form a status report of the waterfowl populations as they stand at this time on the breeding grounds. In Mr. Soileau's presentation he compared the 1984 waterfowl nesting season with 1983 nesting season as well as other seasons in the past years. In his overall report he did inform the Commission and sportsmen in attendance that there was a decline in the Mississippi Flyway populations for 1984-85. Mr. Soileau also briefed the Commission and the sportsmen attending that his and Mr. Smith's meetings with the Mississippi Flyway Council and the National Flyway Council in coming up with recommendations for the 1984-85 hunting season. Mr. Soileau did confirm what the season would be as far as dates, hours, etc.; the same as last year under the five-year stabilized regulations. Afterward Mr. Soileau reported on the meetings.

Mr. Chuck Smith gave a report on the water and waterfowl conditions in the Northern United States and Canada. Mr. Smith confirmed this with a slide presentation which covered his recent trip to the waterfowl breeding grounds in the northern United States, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. This also covered flights up to the Park Lands which is the northern extreme of the waterfowl breeding areas. In the slide presentation, he showed the drought conditions in the Canadian provinces.

Mr. Smith's report did confirm that there will be a decline in the waterfowl population this year, but again emphasized as Mr. Soileau did that we are still under the stabilized regulations.

Mr. Joe Herring gave the staff's recommendations on the proposed dates for the 1984-85 waterfowl season. Mr. Gray stated that after these dates were given that he would call on those in the audience to give their comments and recommendations on dates for the upcoming waterfowl season. Mr. Herring then gave the staff's recommendations.

1984 Louisiana Waterfowl Season

West Zone Season Options

	Days
<u>1st</u> Nov. 3 - Dec. 2	30
Dec. 15 - Jan. 8	25
Goose Season to Extend to Jan. 23	

<u>2nd</u> Nov. 3 - Nov. 27	25
Dec. 15 - Jan. 13	30
Goose Season to Extend to Jan. 28	

East Zone Season Options

<u>1st</u> Nov. 17 - Dec. 2	16
Dec. 18 - Jan. 20	34
Goose Season to Extend to Feb. 9	

<u>2nd</u> Nov. 17 - Nov. 29	13
Dec. 15 - Jan. 20	37
Goose Season to Extend to Feb. 9	

Special Scaup Season

Jan. 21 - Jan. 31, 1985

Coot Season

Concurrent with Waterfowl Season

A motion was made by Mr. Lyle Crain, seconded by Dr. Jack Cappel, and passed unanimously to accept the first option for the 1984-85 waterfowl season.

Mr. George Gray adjourned the meeting.